

**2013 City of Austin  
Google Fiber Community Connections Program  
Application and Instructions**

Google has announced plans to bring Google Fiber to Austin residents. The plan calls for building an ultra, high speed broadband network with Internet speeds of one gigabit per second, up to 100 times faster than normal to Austin's homes.

Google has agreed to provide up to 100 sites with broadband Internet services through its fiber network free of charge until April 8, 2023 in addition to City Hall and the new Central Library. These Community Connections will be to public or non-profit sites in the City of Austin that provide access and services directly to Austinites through what is being called the Community Connections program. Under the agreement with Google Fiber, the City of Austin will create the proposed list of sites for the program.

It is the City Council's goal to ensure an application and selection process that is transparent, available to all, and utilizes a clear set of [selection criteria](#) adopted by the City Council. Community Connections aims to provide fiber speed internet access directly to the public and will serve for innovation and digital inclusion, resulting in advancements unique to Austin's spirit.

Attached is the Community Connections Site Application, which is due by September 30, 2013.

Please direct questions to the City's Telecommunications & Regulatory Affairs Office at [digital.inclusion@austintexas.gov](mailto:digital.inclusion@austintexas.gov) or 512-974-2999.

For more information and application: [austintexas.gov/digitalinclusion](http://austintexas.gov/digitalinclusion)

Thank you for your consideration.



## Community Connections Site Selection Application Form

The City of Austin will propose **100** public or non-profit organizations to receive Google Fiber connections at their locations.

### **Application Packet**

In order to be considered for selection, please submit the following items:

- **General Application Form.** Complete this form (ensuring that it is signed and dated).
- **Criteria Form. Complete this form as fully as possible.** If the organization offers services at more than one location, the applicant should complete the Criteria Form for each location and prioritize the single location that will benefit the most from having a gigabit of service.

### **Application Submission**

All applications are due in the Office of Telecommunications & Regulatory Affairs (TARA) before **4:45 p.m. on Monday, September 30, 2013**. Late applications will not be considered.

Submissions may be submitted by email or snail mail to:

Email: [digital.inclusion@austintexas.gov](mailto:digital.inclusion@austintexas.gov)

Address: City of Austin - Municipal Building -124 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 210, Austin, Texas 78701

Phone: 512.974.2999

### **Application Review Process**

#### ***Community Applications***

- August 26, 2013 - Community Site Applications Available
- September 30, 2013 - Deadline for Site Applications for Community Connections
- October 1-31, 2013 - Staff Review & Assessment

#### ***Site List Adoption***

- November 6, 2013 – Community Tech & Telecommunications Commission - Discussion & Input
- November 13, 2013 – Emerging Technology & Telecommunications Council Committee - Discussion & Recommendation to Council
- November 21, 2013 - Council Discussion & Adoption of Community Connection Site List
- End of 2013 - Google Fiber requested deadline for Community Connection Site List from City

### **Privacy Statement**

This information is being collected and will be used to assist in determining your organization's eligibility and qualification for receiving a community connection on the City's proposed site list. This information provided may be published by the City. Any information collected, assembled, or maintained by or for a governmental body is subject to the Public Information Act.



Community Connections General Application Form (Please complete this portion of application only once per organization if submitting for multiple sites)		
General Application Form		
<b>Applicant Organization Name:</b> Film Society of Austin, Inc.		
<b>Alias/DBA:</b> Austin Film Society		
<b>Program Name for Google Fiber Connection:</b> Austin Studios Global		
<b>Organization Mission and Purpose:</b> The Austin Film Society empowers our community to make, watch and love film and creative media. AFS achieves its mission by exhibiting rarely seen films, providing grants to regional filmmakers, offering film education to youth and adults, and operating a studio facility for productions at a wide range of budget levels.		
<b>Organization Website:</b> www.austinfilm.org		
<b>Contact Name:</b> Sarah Ann Mockbee		
<b>City:</b> Austin	<b>State:</b> TX	<b>Zip:</b> 78723
<b>Phone:</b> 512-322-0145	<b>Email:</b> sarahann@austinfilm.org	
<b>Location(s) applying for site selection (including physical address of location) and how long your organization plans on being at each location:</b> Austin Studios, 1901 E 51 <sup>st</sup> Street, Austin TX 78723. AFS has a lease with the City of Austin through 2042, so we anticipate being at this location at least that long.		
<b>Type of Organization:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit <input type="checkbox"/> Public Entity		
<b>Number of years in operation:</b> 28	<b>Number of employees at location:</b> 14	

Community Connections Criteria Form

*(Please complete this portion of application once for organization in an electronic document and please explain each response, 1000 words maximum per response, please)*

Criteria Form

Organization

**1. What is your agency's vision? (response required for all agencies)**

The Austin Film Society's vision is to make Austin synonymous with great independent film. The Austin Film Society is a hub for diverse filmmakers and cinephiles to teach, support and inspire one another. Its spaces foster collaboration, ideas and high caliber projects. Its programs invite all who value cinema to participate, grow and prosper on the world stage, beginning with Austin.

**2. What is your agency's mission and purpose? (response required for all agencies)**

The Austin Film Society empowers our community to make, watch and love film and creative media. AFS achieves its mission by exhibiting rarely seen films, providing grants to regional filmmakers, offering film education to youth and adults, and operating a studio facility for productions at a wide range of budget levels.

**3. Please list your organization's affiliations, community partnerships, certifications, and/or accreditations. (response required for all agencies)**

AFS has formal, contractual partnerships with the City of Austin (for our campus Austin Studios); Austin Independent School District (for the afterschool program AFS Film Club); and the Marchesa Hall and Theatre (for our theater, AFS at the Marchesa).

Informal partnerships:

- 37 film/media tenants at Austin Studios, including our founder, Richard Linklater's production company, Detour Film Production.
- Troublemaker Studios
- Austin Technology Incubator
- Alamo Drafthouse Cinemas
- Violet Crown Theater
- Paramount Theatre
- Austin Jewish Film Festival
- Cine Las Americas
- ATX Television Festival
- Lights, Camera, Help Festival
- Cinema Touching Disability
- Polari (formerly Austin Gay & Lesbian International Film Festival or AGLIFF)
- Polish Film Festival
- Transmedia Austin
- Cinema 41
- Cinema East



**4. What is the total number of unduplicated clients served by your organization at this location last fiscal year? (*response required for non-profit agencies only*)**

During fiscal year 2013, AFS served 5,631 unduplicated clients. AFS has many repeat clients, which totaled 25,275 last year.

**5. Briefly provide an overview of your organization and the services it offers. (*response required for all agencies*)**

AFS serves the community through four departments: Community Education, Artist Services, Exhibition and Austin Studios.

Community Education: AFS teaches 350 area youth annually through summer film camps (Summer @ Austin Studios), independent study, AFS Film Club after-school workshops at 17 underserved AISD schools, and tours of Austin Studios. In addition, we train 45 interns each year, who enter our Film Referral Program upon completion of their internship and apprenticeship. This program has facilitated 634 job placements on film and media projects.

Artist Services: The AFS Grant provides cash and in-kind grants to emerging film and video artists whose work demonstrates promise, creativity and skill. Since 1996, AFS has awarded \$1,350,000 in cash grants to 400 projects. The grants have funded production, post-production, and distribution, as well as stipends to Texas filmmakers traveling to prestigious film festivals. Additional support and resources include fiscal sponsorship; individual consultations; Moviemaker Dialogues with industry experts; works-in-progress screenings; and networking events. The AFS online publication and weekly newsletter Slackerwood, our web site and YouTube channel all provide information and contacts within the film community.

Exhibition: AFS presents and co-sponsors 250 significant, rarely-seen films year-round. Our regular programming is provided free or discounted for members and includes Essential Cinema, Doc Nights, Avant Cinema and Best of the Fests. Additionally, AFS provides advance screenings, co-sponsors films with a diversity of like-minded organizations, and holds gala film premieres and the Texas Film Awards. Guest filmmakers are invited to participate in post-screening discussions and events when possible. Our Texas Independent Film Network tours a curated selection of indie films to 19 venues across the state.

Austin Studios: AFS attracts film development and production to Texas through Austin Studios, founded in 2000 and operated on land leased from the City of Austin. Austin Studios features 100,000 square feet of production space, a screening room, industry vendors and production offices. Austin Studios has brought \$1.3 billion in economic impact to Texas.

Austin Studios was created by AFS in 2000 through long-term lease between AFS and the City of Austin. It is not a separate organization from AFS, but part of AFS's nonprofit charter. In 2009, AFS renegotiated its lease with the City of Austin, extending its tenancy through 2042 and incorporating the adjacent decommissioned National Guard Building into its campus. Further, AFS converted the Red Building, traditionally a production office for big-budget film, into a hive of small businesses including talent agents, casting agents, producers, and filmmakers. In November 2012, the City of Austin put Austin Studios on the ballot for \$5.4 million to fund the remodeling of the National Guard Armory. Through a 2012 "Our Town" grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, AFS is planning the public face of Austin Studios and engaging the community in dialogue and design of what the future should bring. The "public face" will include screening rooms, meeting rooms, a café/bar and gallery space. Here, the industry and the audience

will converge.

**6. Describe the community issues your organization is attempting to address. Include a description of the population most at risk of experiencing the issues described. (response required for non-profit agencies only)**

Creative media has been identified as one of five industry clusters in the greater Austin region that is primed to address economic development opportunities. This cluster includes film, television, commercials, videogames, interactive multimedia and music production. Despite certain competitive advantages, the cluster has not been able to maximize its growth potential due to a lack of affordable space. Indeed, investment in facilities was the primary recommendation from an economic impact report commissioned by the City of Austin in 2004 and updated in 2012. However, Austin has a substantial workforce qualified to advance the cluster. An estimated 49,000 employees currently work in the creative media cluster in Austin, while the University of Texas at Austin, Austin Community College, and St. Edwards University produce hundreds of graduates in these fields each year. Without sufficient space for media production, Austin cannot grow the number of productions that would hire this workforce. Hence, the supply of workforce outstrips demand for their skills, leading to chronic unemployment or underemployment, if the worker chooses to stay local, or an exodus of workers who must take jobs in other states, move elsewhere, or make career changes in order to stay afloat.

**7. Describe the demographics (e.g. ethnicity, gender, age, and income levels) and geographic characteristics of the community members your organization serves. (response required for non-profit agencies only)**

AFS audiences, members and program participants represent all ages and a cross-section of the diverse population of Texas. We make programs accessible, with membership starting at \$50 and access to over 100 free and discounted films per year. Non-member ticket prices start at \$8. We present diversity in programming, and conduct outreach to a cross-section of Austin's cultural communities. Our most recent demographic survey indicated the following makeup of our audience:

**Ethnicity**

American Indian: 3%

Asian: 4%

Black: 11%

Hispanic: 23%

White: 55%

Multi-Racial: 4%

**Age**

13-18: 1%

19-25: 9%

26-35: 17%

36-45: 11%

46-59: 30%

60+: 33%



**Gender**

Male: 54%

Female: 46%

**8. Describe your organization's accessibility (e.g. accessible main entrance, within blocks of a public bus stop, etc.). (response required for non-profit agencies only)**

Austin Studios is situated on 20-acres within an urban infill development in central-east Austin called the Mueller Planned Unit Development. Once the location of the former municipal airport, the development is very accessible to Austin by numerous arterial corridors, which each feature public transportation routes. Over the past decade, the growth of the Mueller development has spurred the creation of pedestrian-friendly walkways, bicycle routes, and additional transit options, all of which are available at Austin Studios' front, side, and back doors. Within a 5-minute walk of Austin Studios main entrance, one can currently access a supermarket, retail and restaurant shops, convenience stores, bus stops, and public parks. The level of density and mix of uses will only increase as the Mueller development continues to grow: an elementary school, single-family and multi-family residential, a performing arts center, and office complexes are all planned.

Although AFS' operations are currently located within the "back lot" of Austin Studios, the organization is in the late planning stages for the creation of a new "public face", which will increase the physical accessibility of AFS' programs immensely. AFS has already secured \$5.4 Million from the City of Austin to adapt a former National Guard Armory building into a Creative Media Hub; the project will not only bring AFS' many programs together under one roof but will also physically move AFS' offices closer to the front of the Austin Studios lot. The project is anticipated to go into construction in early 2015 and will incorporate best practices to create pedestrian-friendly, ADA-friendly, bicycle-friendly, and school-bus-friendly entries. Special attention will be paid to connect Austin Studios into the Mueller development and surrounding neighborhoods, ensuring seamless accessibility and openness for AFS' visitors, tenants, members, and staff.

**9. If selected, how will your organization incorporate Google Fiber into the services it offers? (response required for all agencies)**

Google Fiber will be offered free of charge to all visitors to Austin Studios. Such a fast connection will impact all aspects of our day-to-day operations, propel AFS forward in its strategic plan, and help us realize our vision for Austin. Specifically, we will incorporate Google Fiber in the following ways:

Artist Services

We will be better set up to provide artist mentorship, with Google Fiber empowering industry professionals locally to access experts and mentors anywhere in the world. For example:

- We will add a Google Fiber Residency to our AFS Grant program, described in Organization Q.5. To be housed in a production facility and co-working space that has built-in, free access to the internet via Google Fiber eliminates costs, speeds up collaboration, feedback and dialog with their peers and mentors anywhere in the world, and gives them entrée they might otherwise not have – thus, propelling their careers forward.
- AFS will add Google Hangout components to programs and workshops, such as Moviemaker Dialogues.
- AFS will develop and share best practices for use of Google Hangout for education, peer mentorship and promoting one's film in today's crowded marketplace.

### Community Education

Through our education program, we will enrich the lives of more students and connect more filmmakers to the classrooms, specifically through:

- Greater online educational resources including clips from movies filmed at Austin Studios, job directories for entry-level workers, and event pages on the AFS website for use during tours and school field trips at Austin Studios.
- Capacity to host more student films at a higher resolution on the AFS website
- A robust online catalog on the AFS website of curriculum and materials, such as lesson plans, ice breakers and cinematography handouts for our AFS Filmmaking Mentors.

### Austin Studios

We will offer Google Fiber on a sliding scale to tenants and film production users. We will be able to segment bandwidth into "Public" and "Secured" areas. As most tenants would opt for the "secured" areas, which can be even further segmented/dedicated, and we could charge a fee to set up/maintain these "secured" partitions. Austin Studios will co-locate long term productions, short term productions, post-production companies, production company offices, offices for writers, directors and videogame developers. Google Fiber will be used by all of these tenants to interact with people across the globe – editing collaboratively, pitching to investors, screening their work, learning from and presenting to their peers and mentors. We anticipate that:

- Shipping costs and time spent shipping content between producers and editors will be drastically reduced if not eliminated entirely, as content is shared online exclusively.
- Demand for space at Austin Studios will increase as creatives learn how Google Fiber lets them explore new possibilities in digital filmmaking.
- Visitors to the public face of Austin Studios will use Austin Studios as a place to connect to the internet. (See also Community Q.1, Q.3; for more detail, see Innovation Q.1)

**10. The City of Austin requires an annual report explaining how selected organizations and the community they serve benefit from Google Fiber. If selected, how will your organization measure the impact Google Fiber has on those served by your organization? Describe evaluation methods, goals, and objectives. *(response required for all agencies)***

We expect that Google Fiber will create greater public interactivity with our programs, increase our global audience, and accelerate the pace and level of innovation in filmmaking. In order to test that expectation, we will measure the following data through a mix of user surveys, teacher/program leader surveys, and internal controls:

- 1) Number of people using Google Fiber over time
  - a) Number/percent of students using Fiber-enhanced programs
  - b) Number/percent of AFS-supported artists using Google Fiber access points
  - c) Number/percent of AFS Film Club instructors using Fiber-enhanced programs
  - d) Number of users coming to AFS to access Google Fiber
- 2) Increase in percentage of AFS programs designed around fiber usage
- 3) Tenant feedback surveys on user experience
- 4) Visitor feedback surveys on user experience
- 5) Amount AFS saves (expenses) through free access, that will be passed on to the community via programs and services



**Please include location if applying for more than one location (include priority rank if submitting for more than one location:**

**Community**

*(responses required for all agencies)*

**1. Briefly describe how Google Fiber will enhance public participation in your organization's service.**

Anyone coming to AFS for public programs, which take place several times a month, will be able to try Google fiber for themselves. AFS offers educational, distinctive programming that, with fiber, could include live streaming opportunities. Currently, we are barely able to offer access to our programs post-event via recording or online discussion. With fiber, all the content of a session could be immediately available. With such high bandwidth, it would be efficient for people to watch as it happens.

We are eager to build a bigger audience for our teaching programs that is unlimited by geography. Fiber allows us to offer more interactive content such as teaching and training by artists and experts, to artists and students all over the world. The bandwidth would better support our ability to produce and archive live webcasts with cameras potentially anywhere in the world.

Neighbors will be able to come here and connect. Audience members who come for events and workshops will all be on social media, using the internet simultaneously, creating immediate feedback loops and conversations unhindered by current broadband speed.

**2. Briefly describe how your organization promotes digital inclusion.**

Currently, AFS promotes digital inclusion through our Community Education and Artist Services programs. As we expand Austin Studios through the renovation of the National Guard Building, we will promote digital inclusion much more aggressively on our campus, as we will at last have a space open to the public to come and explore the magic of moviemaking.

Community Education. At the center of this program (described above in Organization Q.5), is AFS Film Club. Established in 2004 as a partnership between the AFS and the Austin Independent School District (AISD), AFS Film Club is an award-winning out-of-school-time program that leverages filmmaking and digital media to empower low-income and minority students to express themselves creatively and build vital intellectual, technological, and personal skills. AFS Film Club combines a standards-based curriculum with professional mentorship to help at-risk students develop positive self-esteem, persist and succeed academically, and identify pathways to college and careers in Austin's thriving creative media industry. Over the past three years, the program has continually expanded in response to demand from AISD, and now annually serves more than 300 diverse students in grades 4–12 in 17 Austin public schools where the largest gaps in access to technology exist. The Film Club campuses lack access to the resources needed to conduct digital media programming, so AFS provides the tools: computer and production equipment, appropriate software and experienced instructors. AFS Film Club curriculum offers a menu of over 40 project-based, cross-disciplinary modules that link digital media and technology skills with central concepts of 21st Century learning.

Artist Services. Through education and training programs as well as through the AFS Grant (described above in Organization Q.5), AFS strives to support emerging filmmakers so that they can make career leaps. Among other activities and programs, we host product demonstrations where the general public can learn the latest software and equipment; partner with MPS Camera Austin to offer film students discounted camera and

equipment rentals; and offer Moviemaker Dialogues and workshops with seasoned professionals to offer filmmakers and film enthusiasts ways to deepen their knowledge and practice.

**3. Will bringing Google Fiber to your organization help the underserved? Please explain.**

Yes. AFS is located in a neighborhood that struggles to overcome socio-economic hardship. The project site is located within zip code 78723. According to the U.S. Census 2007-2011 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (the latest official figures for the area available from the Census that are appropriate for use), the area surrounding the proposed project site is 73.4% of the nation's per capita income level and 1.6 percentage points higher in its unemployment rate.

Our campus, with Google Fiber, will become a hub for residents and visitors to discover a wealth of digital media and technology, and have an access point to the internet that they may not have at home. In particular, Google Fiber will directly address the critical issue of high-quality affordable work space and put the region in a position to take full advantage of its competitive edge.

The development of Austin Studios will have a real impact on those who have been left behind by the city's recent economic growth. Creative media jobs do not necessarily require an advanced degree. Austin Studios will create opportunities for unemployed and underemployed middle class workers. These particular jobs will also help address the disparity in income inequality for the Greater Austin Region.

Forecasts show that between completion of construction (January 2016) and September 2022, our development of Austin Studios will generate 3,137 jobs and \$390 million in economic impact. With Google Fiber, we predict that these numbers could increase, as it will make Austin Studios an even more desirable location to produce media.

**4. How much of your community will benefit from the Google Fiber connection?**

Everyone at Austin Studios will benefit from the Google Fiber connection. Already we have 4,400 visitors to our campus each year, including a significant number of the students we serve. We expect this number to increase as we renovate the National Guard Building. All of our tenants will benefit and be able to improve their business operations as described below (see Innovation). As we experiment with ways to enhance the classroom experience of AFS Film Club students, we expect to see that population also benefit.

Google Fiber will also allow us to program content that we can share with broader populations. In 2011, we hosted MTV pioneer Michael Nesmith's streaming TV program, Video Ranch – a live performance at Austin Studios that was streamed to a virtual audience. However, trying to receive more than 10 audience members' participation was essentially impossible because of our connection. With huge bandwidth by which to share content, we could invite a much larger number of sites to participate – classrooms, homes, and businesses could all participate in the suite of AFS programs for little to no cost and with minimal technological demands.



**5. Briefly describe how your organization will offer a new community service as a result of the Google Fiber connection.**

We will offer at least two new community services:

- a) AFS will add a Google Fiber Residency to the AFS Grant (as mentioned in Organization Q.9). As the expansion into the National Guard Building occurs, AFS will be able to offer up to 10,000 square feet as incubator space that includes below-market rent in addition to its existing programs of cash grants up to a total of \$100,000 per year, and mentorship and support via fiscal sponsorship, works-in-progress screenings, networking opportunities and workshops. Austin Technology Incubator (ATI) will offer guidance on establishing this incubator. With the Google Fiber Residency, an emerging artist would enjoy free co-working space within the incubator with internet access via fiber. Proximity to AFS staff and tenants would allow regular communication in person, while fiber would expand the artist's access to mentorship and peers anywhere in the world.
- b) AFS will make at least 10 of our Studios-based public programs available via Google Hangout, expanding our audience at least tenfold and creating a much more participative environment. We can then archive these Hangouts on YouTube, making them available globally and in perpetuity.

With Google Fiber, our facility will be a place of education for those who are unfamiliar with digital media and filmmaking, not just for those able to visit our campus but anyone, anywhere, who wishes to interact with us online. As noted elsewhere, our programs will be made available to remote users who cannot come to Austin Studios because of geographic distance, lack of access to transportation, or physical limitations.

**Innovation**

*(responses required for all agencies)*

**1. Please describe the potential innovative applications that could be developed with a gigabit connection.**

A gigabit connection would mean that content creators have a data transfer tool that they have never before had in their arsenal. Austin Studios welcomes creators of all kinds of film and digital media onto our campus. These small businesses create movies, television shows, mobile apps, video games and more. Often, these creators are collaborating with companies and colleagues based in other cities. Rather than waiting days for large quantities of data to upload and be shared, or using FedEx to send files around, fiber would enable data sharing in a way that establishes a constant dialogue between creators. This would have a huge impact in allowing Austin to expand the quantity of creative media that is produced here, as studios and funders in New York, Los Angeles, and really anywhere in the world would appreciate the seamlessness of working together in real time on projects that are being produced at Austin Studios. This could be applied to our community education model, too, whereby students in Austin could collaborate with students in other schools and parts of the world to shoot, score, animate, and edit movie projects.

Filmmakers at Austin Studios could develop a myriad of applications for fiber. Austin Studios tenants will be able to engage regularly with more customers and clients because Google Fiber will allow them to have face-to-face communication with those who are located far from our campus. Austin Studios could become a control room location for live event production. Casting and talent agents could develop new actor submission software and conduct interactive/real-time auditions via Google Hangout. With faster upload and data transfer speeds, the real-time audition process could be easily done remotely, saving both time and fuel. Editors working at Austin Studios could invite their clients into the editing process because rather than delivering a cut and waiting for feedback in multiple, lengthy cycles, there could be interactive review of

video and collaborative, remote editing. Filmmakers could conduct voiceover sessions remotely without the frustrations of listening in on a standard phone connection. It would be possible for documentarians to interview people remotely without the use of a satellite truck.

Our community education program could become much more dynamic. We would be able to create interactive virtual tours of Austin Studios and to offer live workshops from Austin Studios to classrooms around the globe. Our AFS Film Club students could interact with film professionals working at Austin Studios, without leaving the classroom via Google+. Any live streaming education events at Austin Studios could then be recorded and archived on YouTube. These potential innovations would allow us to meet the ever-increasing demand we have from other schools and school districts that are eager to adopt similar methods of media education.

**2. Does your organization have or foresee high bandwidth applications?**

Yes. AFS and its tenants, as described above, see a great need for high bandwidth given the size of data that is transferred between filmmakers on a daily basis.

**3. Briefly describe how your organization is interested in advancing your technology.**

Technological capacity is at the heart of what we do. We teach audiences to appreciate movies and media produced on various formats (film, digital, streaming, mobile, etc.), teach students as young as nine years old how to make movies, and further the talents of emerging filmmakers so they can make career leaps. Our community education and artist services programs are the most concerted programs by which we advance our technology. We work with over 300 students each year, giving them the technology and mentorship necessary to tell their own stories via digital media. The AFS grant provides funding and in kind support to help filmmakers produce, edit, and distribute their films. As new opportunities for film production and presentation arise, AFS seeks to open these up to our filmmakers, students, and audiences, providing access to and education about the art and craft of filmmaking and media technology.

**4. Does your organization have the capacity and resources to advance your technologies? Please explain.**

Yes; AFS has 28 years of experience supporting the filmmaking community. AFS staff are deeply knowledgeable about film programming, production, and presentation. Where knowledge gaps may exist, we have developed strong relationships to experts who provide counsel via our Board and volunteer leadership committees. Our community education program has developed best practices in digital media education over the last eight years, winning awards for curriculum and partnership development through AFS Film Club. Specific to Google Fiber, we have on-site full-time Studios Operators and contract with Zen IT Solutions, an Austin Studios tenant, for network management. Our contract with Time Warner Cable provides 10Mbps upload/download, that can be adjusted to fit campus needs.

**Practical Pragmatic**

*(responses required for all agencies)*

**1. Will the connection help your organization financially? How?**

As Google Fiber will cover the installation, we will not need to absorb any startup costs. We will benefit from the elimination of current broadband fees. We will include "free Google Fiber" in our list of services at Austin



Studios, and build a premium in to the rent for tenants operating at bigger budgets such as major industry players.

**2. Will this be the organization's primary or secondary connection?**

Primary

**3. Does your organization have (or will it have) equipment necessary to connect?**

The AFS campus is wired with Time Warner Business Class-Commercial Customer internet service, running 10 Mbps up/down connection to over 30 tenants from an installed ADVA FSP 150CCf-825 provided by Time Warner issuing high speed broadband Ethernet to our Cisco systems LAN and WAN switches, though the service connection can achieve much higher speeds up to and exceeding 100 Mbps.

**4. Does your organization currently have access to a high bandwidth connection?**

Yes.

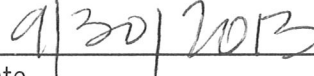
**Applicant's Statement**

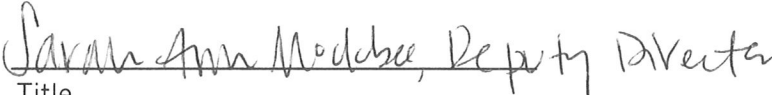
I certify that answers given herein are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that false or misleading information given in my application will result in disqualification. I understand and agree that I am required to abide by City of Austin ordinances, policies and rules.

I understand if selected to receive a Google Fiber connection that the organization I represent may be required to:

☒ submit an annual report to the TARA Office explaining how the organization has benefited from the free service.

  
Signature

  
Date

  
Title

**Please submit this form to TARA by 4:45 p.m. on Monday, September 30, 2013.**

Email: [digital.inclusion@austintexas.gov](mailto:digital.inclusion@austintexas.gov)

Address: City of Austin – TARA - Municipal Building  
124 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 210  
Austin, Texas 78701